Association of Metropolitan School Districts

2025 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

A survey of membership on AMSD
for the 2025 Legislative Season

June 2025

49 respondents

25 Superintendents, 11 School Board Members, 10 Other, 3 anonymous

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AMSD Day at the Capitol 2025

AMSD hosted its Day at the Capitol on March 24, 2025.

	Did you attend the Day at the Capitol?	Yes	No	
		24	23	
	Did you find the day valuable?	**Very valuable**	**Somewhat valuable**	**Not at all.**
		24	2	0
	Was the time convenient?	**Easy**	**Neither difficult or convenient**	**Difficult**
		20	6	2
	Did you schedule meetings with your local legislators during the Day at the Capitol?	**Yes**	**No**	**Other**
		24	4	6
	Did you get feedback from your legislator?	**Yes**	**No**	
		27	2	

	What could make the day better?
	Although I was unable to attend, it is a valuable day for many reasons that serve kids.
	Scheduling conflict
	Sorry, I was unable to attend that day.
	9 or 10 start time would allow those traveling across the metro to attend in person
	Date was during spring break
	I had a schedule conflict and I had to make a choice
	We prioritize attendance at this event. The earlier we know, the easier to schedule around.
	I am grateful that the legislators within our district are supportive of public education.
	This was a great opportunity to continue our advocacy and dialogue with our legislators. We are fortunate that in Centennial, our legislators reach out to us formally and informally on issues.
	Asking multiple board members to schedule multiple meetings with legislators that cross district lines can be chaotic. Centrally manage and schedule individual legislator meetings for attendees.
	great job
	Great opportunity to see how the politics of education funding plays out as well as engaging with legislators to advocate directly and to increase the awareness of the impact of cutting education funds
	I liked that the new space allowed for people to sit. The seating was kind of tight, though, which made it a challenge to get up and move around.
	I thought it went smoothly! Maybe some kind of debrief to follow via email about participation across districts? Or some measure of success?
	I was able to attend the MASA Day at the Capitol. One thing that was incredibly helpful is the meetings with our legislators were scheduled for us. We were grouped with other school districts for the meetings so the Legislators met with multiple districts they represent at a time.
	It is very well done

	It was during our spring break, and I was out of town. I did go last year, and it was a great day!
	It worked very well. It does seem redundant to have MASA/MSBA then AMSD in close proximity. We used different board members and had different meetings.
	Nothing--We appreciated the organization of the day, including the start with breakfast and speakers.
	Past days have been excellent.
	Please maintain the current structure.
	Provide a light working lunch
	The shuttle was very helpful
	We scheduled out own Day at the Capital outside of our spring break. It is unavoidable during March that some district will be on spring break. It just happened to be ours this year. Our Orono Action went on another week and made appointments. It was great!

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COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS

Which AMSD resources you use to stay informed about what is happening at the Capitol

	Email Updates	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
		43			
	AMSD Webpage				
		10	20	9	2
	Connections Newsletter				
		17	23	2	
	Bill Tracker				
		17	19	5	1
	Position Papers				
		18	20	4	
Other research (Cross-Subsidy Comparisons, etc.)					
		6	22	9	3
	Facebook				
		2	1	12	25
	Twitter				
		1	2	9	28
	Other				
	I have moved to BlueSky pretty much exclusively.				
	Scott Croonquist is incredibly helpful and responsive when I text or email him.				
	Weekly emails are fabulous.				
	In addition to updates on legislative action, the weekly emails include updates on the MN Department of Education, PELSB, State and Federal Grant Opportunities, and links to newspaper articles. Please indicate how valuable you find each of these.				
	Legislative Updates	**Very Valuable**	**Somewhat Valuable**	**Not valuable**	
		42			

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COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS

Which AMSD resources you use to stay informed about what is happening at the Capitol

	MDE Updates	Very Valuable	Somewhat Valuable	Not valuable	
		32	8	2	You essentially copy paste from the MDE/PELSB updates we already get. Don't need them twice.
	PELSB Updates	**Very Valuable**	**Somewhat Valuable**	**Not valuable**	
		20	19	3	
	Grant Opportunities	**Very Valuable**	**Somewhat Valuable**	**Not valuable**	
		14	26	2	
	Newspaper / Magazine Articles	**Very Valuable**	**Somewhat Valuable**	**Not valuable**	
		22	19	1	

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POSITION PAPERS

Do the AMSD position papers represent the needs of your district and what is important to your community?

	Very helpful	Somewhat helpful	Not helpful		
	30	11	0		

	How could AMSD improve our position papers, or are there additional topics for position papers that AMSD should consider?
	AMSD Should take positions on racial equity issues facing the metro area. For example, the benefits of integration, ways to effectively close racial disparities, teacher of color prep, etc. rather than the race neutral or silent responses to hot issues in education.
	Anything you can do to create easy sharing. Like start with the one line version of the position. Then the 2-3 sentence version, then 4-5, then a few paragraphs, then the whole thing. Some of this is present already. The point is that I believe, most of the time, people are not willing to read much and you need the short sound bites.
	Equity despite federal stuff...
	I don't know, I learn much from your publications.
	I think the position papers are really great and cover a broad range of issues. Many of the issues aren't necessarily relevant to our small district; that's why I marked "somewhat helpful."
	It is difficult to find common ground on issues and districts could be competing against their own priorities with AMSD set priorities.
	More advocacy for increasing the cap on operating referendum authority.
	Position papers are never one-size-fits-all. I would think about how we could simplify the content/improve the format. Sometimes it seems like we are trying to push too much information on to others. Just like a student in a classroom, we want to find ways to get attention, bring them into our understanding and then work with them.
	Reliable resource.

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Communicating with Legislators

How frequently you communicated with elected officials, AMSD Calls to Action, and Legislative Alerts

Did you communicate regularly with your elected representatives during the legislative session?	Not at all	1-2 times during the session	About once a week	Every other week or so	Monthly	Other (please specify)
	2	5	4	16	13	Different representatives based on topic and timing. Not me personally, usually, but our Superintendent and Legislative Liaison do. Quarterly Very supportive.

Did you find our weekly email updates helpful in keeping informed and providing information to assist you in establishing dialogue with your local legislators about key issues?	Not helpful	Somewhat helpful	Very helpful	Comments
			42	And the summaries helped me to communicate with other school board members. These are well done and provide value. Thank you.

Would you have liked to receive email communications and calls for engagement more or less frequently?	More frequently	Less frequently	The amount of communication was appropriate	Other
	3		40	More as appropriate (of course)

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AMSD CORRESPONDENCE

How do you engage the following correspondence from AMSD?

	AMSD Email Updates	I open and read every email	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
		43			
	Connections	**I open and read every email**	**Sometimes**	**Rarely**	**Never**
		24	17	1	

How do you use the Executive Director's AMSD Email Updates?

	I read it in my email.	Always	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
		43			
	I forward the email to district staff.				
		13	21		
	I forward the email to parents, parent groups or non-district employees.				
		2	8	15	14
	Comments:				

I do summarize and provide updates as they apply to us.

I share with school board weekly

The weekly emails are succinct and time saving.

We don't forward the email directly to parents, but we use clips in our email updates.

While I do not forward the email on to staff or stakeholder groups, I will incorporate the updates into our district communications

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AMSD CORRESPONDENCE

How do you engage the following correspondence from AMSD?

	Did you find our weekly email updates helpful in keeping informed and providing information to assist you in establishing dialogue with your local legislators about key issues?				
		Not helpful	**Somewhat helpful**	**Very helpful**	**Comments:**
				43	And the summaries helped me to communicate with other school board members. These are well done and provide value. Thank you.
	What is most useful, or could make our email updates / legislative alerts better?				
	all seems great as it, but I don't know what I don't know. Surprise us with new things occasionally, it might be interesting to read. Appreciate that the messages get to the point. Appreciate the timely communication on what is happening. great job by everyone I appreciate the repeat on important issues. Continued or improved collaboration with MDE/MASA/PELSB would keep things from being too redundant. I find the format doesn't necessarily work well with today's email reading software--with the photos on the left and text on the right. There's a lot of extra scrolling and it's kind of hard to scan the emails for the most important information. I think you do a good job with these. If I knew when they were going to be sent that would help. Please maintain the current structure. The email communication always contains relevant and important information.				

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AMSD BOARD MEETINGS

Importance of different hosted events throughout the Session and year

	AMSD Monthly Board Meetings (no meeting in June or July)	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★	★
		29	9	1		1
	The past year we heard presentations from AMSD Superintendents/Board Members about initiatives in their district related to assessments, portrait of a graduate, legislative advocacy, and Artificial Intelligence. Did you find these presentations valuable?	**Yes**	**No**	**Other**		
		39		3		
	Would you like to continue having presentations from AMSD members on local initiatives part of the AMSD Board meeting agenda?	**Yes**	**No**	**Other**		
		37		4		
	Would you be interested in sharing a 20-30 minute presentation at a future board meeting to highlight a program or initiative in your school district?	**Yes**	**No**	**Other**		
		17	12	10		
	Please share any topic ideas or suggestions for guest speakers for future AMSD board meetings.					
	Legislators, every time. Keep them engaged with us. Navigating during times of uncertainty in public education. Please continue the annual Morris Leatherman survey presentation, the bipartisan panels and bringing people like Adosh Unni to present at the meetings. Racial segregation and academic disparity data using GIS information. Sean Reardon and Rucker Johnson (son of former Mpls superintendent Carol Johnson) are leaders in this area. While being online is very helpful, it does not lead to the same level of collegiality. I definitly do online and accept the tradeoff, but some of the reason is because the "room" is no longer ever full. While the virtual option is wonderful, I do miss the days when the room was full. Obviously, this is personal preference for the attendees, but I believe we may be losing a little in terms of personal connections and valuable networking.					

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AMSD EVENTS

Importance of different hosted events throughout the Session and year

	AMSD Policy Conference (Annually held in November)	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★	★
		23	10	3		1
	Please share any topic ideas or suggestions or feedback on the annual conference.					
	Crus-Guzman settlement (Jon-Peterson, Carlos Mariani-Rosa) Dealing with divided politics in the district/community Legal updates I find the district presentations particularly valuable. I think of the AMSD conference as the "ideas conference" amongst conferences sponsored by Minnesota education associations. The others are pretty light on content and I think AMSD should lean into being the conference where we get together to deal with the big issues facing member districts. Like to hear what other districts are doing The location is pretty good, but some of the breakout spaces are a little challenging. Those interior ones can be so dark, which is not always conducive to a "lively space." I think so many presenters do not want to use mics/amplification--that makes it really hard for some people to hear.					
	AMSD Legislative Preview (Annually held in January or February)	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★	★
		36	2	2		1
	Please share any topic ideas or suggestions or feedback on the legislative preview.					
	I appreciate that we work to get people from both sides of the aisle. We need to be sure that the superintendents who speak don't just call for funding and offer little vision of our strategies to improve educational outcomes. The folks who spoke last time ended up really sounding like advocates for funding the status quo, which I know was not their intent and it's not what they are doing in their districts. We need to call for funding AND for change.					

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AMSD WEBSITE

How often you visit the web page for specific purposes

Contact Information for AMSD Member Districts and Legislators	Once a week or more	Once a month or more	3-6 times a year	Never
	3	9	16	14
Legislative Session Information	**Once a week or more**	**Once a month or more**	**3-6 times a year**	**Never**
	11	15	12	4
AMSD Position Papers	**Once a week or more**	**Once a month or more**	**3-6 times a year**	**Never**
	1	18	20	3
Research and Statistics	**Once a week or more**	**Once a month or more**	**3-6 times a year**	**Never**
	2	13	18	7
Current and Past AMSD Presentations	**Once a week or more**	**Once a month or more**	**3-6 times a year**	**Never**
	2	16	18	6
Connections Newsletters	**Once a week or more**	**Once a month or more**	**3-6 times a year**	**Never**
	2	17	13	11
Board of Directors Meeting Handouts	**Once a week or more**	**Once a month or more**	**3-6 times a year**	**Never**
	4	30	5	3
Calendar of Meetings and Events	**Once a week or more**	**Once a month or more**	**3-6 times a year**	**Never**
	1	28	9	4
Other (please specify)				

Website feedback: Is there any content not provided,
or anything that could improve the usability of the AMSD web page?

Comments:
I really like the new format. If we could carry over some of that look and feel to other AMSD materials, it could be good.

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FINAL COMMENTS

Comments:
AMSD provides value for the investment.
Appreciate the continued focus on lobbying and advocacy.
Appreciate the information and resources.
I appreciate AMSD and the team. You are a highly valuable group and partner
I appreciated the opportunity to learn and grow as well as the political process and advocacy
If AMSD could engage their disengaged members, they could be the strongest voice for education in the state. Personally, I can't attend 7am board meetings across town on a workday. But that is the only time they ever are and the zoom option is very disengaging. As MSBA shifts their focus more and more to greater MN, I see a gap widening for our metro districts that needs to be filled. It would be great to see AMSD capture their engagement to fill that gap.
Keep up the great work!
Kimberly, Troy and Scott are an incredible team. I appreciate all you. Your work makes my work possible. Thank you!
Legislative updates have been extremely helpful!!! Thank you!
Scott is so knowledgeable and responsive. I appreciate his work greatly.
Scott- you and the team do a great job. Thanks for your service and leadership for our districts, kids, and communities!! Josh
Thank you and the work your team does to support school districts!! You all do a great job and it is appreciated!
Thank you for all that you do!!!!
Thank you for all you do AMSD!
THANK YOU for all you do. I am so appreciative of AMSD's efforts. I think if it was just MSBA out there representing us, we would not see changes in the things we need as metro schools. You all are invaluable for us--especially for a small school district like ours.
thank you for the great work, professional and educational.
Thank you for your incredible work! We are very grateful for you all!